

REMARKS

At the outset, the Examiner is thanked for the thorough review and consideration of the pending application. The Examiner is thanked for indicating that claims 6 and 9 contain allowable subject matter. The Office Action dated March 20, 2008 has been received and its contents carefully reviewed.

Claim 18 is hereby added. Support for the new claim can be found, for example, at Specification, page 23, line 6, to page 25, line 26. No new matter has been added. Accordingly, claims 1-18 are currently pending, of which claims 13-17 are withdrawn from consideration. Reexamination and reconsideration of the pending claims are respectfully requested.

The Office Action rejects claims 1-5, 8, and 10-11 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being obvious over U.S. Patent No. 5,284,543 to Kusano et al. (“*Kusano*”) in view Langmuir, 2002, 18, 2785-2788 to Lou et al. (“*Lou*”). Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection.

“To establish *prima facie* obviousness of a claimed invention, all the claim limitations must be taught or suggested by the prior art.” *In re Royka*, 490 F.2d 981, 180 USPQ 580 (CCPA 1974). *Kusano* and *Lou*, either singularly or in combination, fail to teach or suggest each and every element of claims 1-5, 8, and 10-11, and thus cannot render these claims obvious.

Claim 1 recites, “electrografting an organic film onto the conductive or semiconductive surface of the second object.” The Specification provides that “the expression ‘electrografting of an organic film onto a conductive or semiconductive surface’ is understood to mean an operation that consists in bringing this surface into contact with at least one precursor of this organic film and in causing, by applying one or more semiconductive surface, this precursor to be attached via covalent bonds to said surface and, thereby, forming an organic film.” *Specification*, page 8, lines 23-32, emphasis added. In other words, electrografting results in forming covalent bonds between the organic film and the conductive or semiconductive surface. *Kusano* fails to teach at least the above-recited feature of claim 1. In fact, the Office admits that “*Kusano* fails to disclose expressly wherein [] electrografting an organic film onto the conductive or semiconductive surface.” *Office Action*, page 3.

Lou does not cure the deficiency of *Kusano*. In *Lou*, what is bonded to the electrografted film is not an object having a polymer surface but a simple PVC film which is formed *in situ* by spin-coating and which cannot be assimilated to an object having a polymer surface. See, *Lou*, page 2788, left column, first full paragraph. Table 2 of *Lou* shows that the PVC film remains on the steel surface when the primer coating is an electrografted poly(ACL-co-CL) film and the PVC film is removed from the steel surface when the primer coating is an electrografted poly(ACL) film. In this instance, *Lou* has a failure rate of 50%. Thus, *Lou*'s teaching of electrografting a polymer film on a metallic surface does not lead compulsorily to a good adherence of the polymer film on the metallic surface.

Accordingly, claim 1 is allowable over the combined teaching of *Kusano* and *Lou*. Claims 2-5, 8, 10-11 and newly added claim 18, which variously depend from claim 1, are also allowable for at least the same reasons as claim 1. Applicants, therefore, respectfully request withdrawal of the rejection.

The Office Action rejects claim 7 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being obvious over *Kusano* and *Lou* in view of U.S. Patent No. 4,547,270 to Naarmann ("*Naarmann*"). The Office Action rejects claim 12 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being obvious over *Kusano* and *Lou* in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,335,571 to Capote et al. ("*Capote*"). Applicants respectfully traverse the rejections.


As discussed above, *Kusano* and *Lou* fail to teach or suggest at least the above-recited element of claim 1, namely "electrografting an organic film onto the conductive or semiconductive surface of the second object." *Naarmann* and *Capote* do not cure the deficiency in *Kusano* and *Lou* with respect to claim 1. In fact, *Naarmann* is cited for teaching "electrochemical polymerization of pyrrole with phosphonium salts on an anode sheet," and *Capote* is cited for teaching "a semiconductor chip 100, which is coated with a liquid polymer resin 111, and a substrate 101 coated with a polymer flux 109 ... bonded together." *Office Action*, page 5. Accordingly, claim 1 is allowable over the combined teaching of *Kusano*, *Lou*, *Naarmann*, and *Capote*. Claims 7 and 17, which directly or indirectly depend from claim 1, are also allowable for at least the same reasons. Applicants, therefore, respectfully request withdrawal of the rejections.

The application is in condition for allowance. Early and favorable action is respectfully solicited. If for any reason the Examiner finds the application other than in condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to call the undersigned attorney at (202) 496-7500 to discuss the steps necessary for placing the application in condition for allowance. All correspondence should continue to be sent to the below-listed address.

If these papers are not considered timely filed by the Patent and Trademark Office, then a petition is hereby made under 37 C.F.R. § 1.136, and any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.136 for any necessary extension of time, or any other fees required to complete the filing of this response, may be charged to Deposit Account No. 50-0911. Please credit any overpayment to deposit Account No. 50-0911.

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Respectfully submitted,

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